

Subj: RE: Adam J. Slemmer
 Date: 2/4/03 3:21:07 PM Eastern Standard Time
 From: MJohnson1@uamail.albany.edu
 To: AIGambone@aol.com
 Sent from the Internet (Details)

Al,

Looks like you have done your homework on Slemmer, much more than I. He is a minor yet important character in my forthcoming book. Upon assignment to the new 16th U.S. Infantry in early summer 1861, he set up the regiment's headquarters in Chicago. He ran things there only a few months before getting tapped for staff duty at Department of the Cumberland headquarters in Cincinnati. He remained on the staff assignment until (I think) July 1862, when he reported to the field and took command of the 1st Battalion, 16th U.S. Infantry, then at Tullahoma, Tennessee. He commanded the battalion throughout the Kentucky Campaign. In December 1862 Rosecrans formed the Army of the Cumberland's new Regular Brigade through the consolidation of the 15th, 16th, 18th, and 19th Regular regiments into a single brigade. This unit's baptism of fire occurred at Stones River, the place at which Slemmer was wounded. Here is Slemmer's report from that action:

Nashville Tenn.
 January 12th 1863

Lieut. Sutherland 18th Inftry
 A.A.A.G. Regular Brigade
 3 Division

Sir:

I have the honor to report that on the morning of Dec 31s 1863, having placed my command ready for action, I entered the Cedar wood on the right, following the 15th Infantry. As soon as in position, the rebels were seen on the right, endeavoring to obtain a position to the right and rear. The 15th having retreated to the right and rear, it became necessary that my command should fall back, as we were fired on from the right, left, and front. I withdrew from the wood in as good order as possible, and at the edge of the road found, a battery and its support placed in our rear, holding the enemy in check on the right. I retreated across the road to the railroad, where the remainder of the Brigade was found. Having replenished our ammunition, I was again ordered to support the Battery on the right following its movements. Once more we approached the woods and when within a hundred yards, I was ordered to throw my battalion immediately in front of the Battery and on Major Carpenter's left. This was done, and the line advanced to the edge of the wood. Firing commenced on the right, and soon became general. Fearing we might be firing on our line in front, I gave the order Cease Firing. The first line soon came in on the left, and the enemy appeared in force in front, and began firing with great rapidity. Soon I found myself severely wounded in the left leg, just below the knee, and was compelled to face to the rear, to be taken care of.

The Officers and men of my command behaved with great coolness and personal courage. I cannot praise them too highly. Lieut. John Power, Adjutant of the Battalion, and Capt. R.E. Crofton, Acting Field Officer, rendered valuable and Effective service, and I present their names especially to your notice.

Out of fourteen Officers present, seven were wounded. Out of two hundred ninety five (295) men in ranks bearing arms in the morning, but Sixty five (65) reformed after this engagement.

I am Sir very respectfully
 Your obt. Svnt.

A.J. SLEMMER
 Major 16th Infantry

Source: National Archives, Record Group 391, entry 1548 (16th U.S. Infantry, letters sent, April 1862-March 1865)

Captain R.E.A. Crofton took charge of the battalion upon Slemmer's wounding, and Crofton's report is the one that made it into the ORs for the 16th Infantry. Slemmer's last act of the battle occurred on January 1, 1863. He was in a wagon train heading back to Nashville that was captured by marauding Confederate cavalry. Slemmer and the rest of the prisoners were immediately paroled. His parole status didn't really make much difference in the long run, since his days of field service were over due to the severity of his wound.

Subj: RE: Adam J. Slemmer
 Date: 2/4/03 3:21:07 PM Eastern Standard Time
 From: MJohnson1@uamail.albany.edu
 To: AlGambone@aol.com
 Sent from the Internet (Details)

Al,

Looks like you have done your homework on Slemmer, much more than I. He is a minor yet important character in my forthcoming book. Upon assignment to the new 16th U.S. Infantry in early summer 1861, he set up the regiment's headquarters in Chicago. He ran things there only a few months before getting tapped for staff duty at Department of the Cumberland headquarters in Cincinnati. He remained on the staff assignment until (I think) July 1862, when he reported to the field and took command of the 1st Battalion, 16th U.S. Infantry, then at Tullahoma, Tennessee. He commanded the battalion throughout the Kentucky Campaign. In December 1862 Rosecrans formed the Army of the Cumberland's new Regular Brigade through the consolidation of the 15th, 16th, 18th, and 19th Regular regiments into a single brigade. This unit's baptism of fire occurred at Stones River, the place at which Slemmer was wounded. Here is Slemmer's report from that action:

Nashville Tenn.
 January 12th 1863

Lieut. Sutherland 18th Infty
 A.A.A.G. Regular Brigade
 3 Division

Sir:

I have the honor to report that on the morning of Dec 31s 1863, having placed my command ready for action, I entered the Cedar wood on the right, following the 15th Infantry. As soon as in position, the rebels were seen on the right, endeavoring to obtain a position to the right and rear. The 15th having retreated to the right and rear, it became necessary that my command should fall back, as we were fired on from the right, left, and front. I withdrew from the wood in as good order as possible, and at the edge of the road found, a battery and its support placed in our rear, holding the enemy in check on the right. I retreated across the road to the railroad, where the remainder of the Brigade was found. Having replenished our ammunition, I was again ordered to support the Battery on the right following its movements. Once more we approached the woods and when within a hundred yards, I was ordered to throw my battalion immediately in front of the Battery and on Major Carpenter's left. This was done, and the line advanced to the edge of the wood. Firing commenced on the right, and soon became general. Fearing we might be firing on our line in front, I gave the order Cease Firing. The first line soon came in on the left, and the enemy appeared in force in front, and began firing with great rapidity. Soon I found myself severely wounded in the left leg, just below the knee, and was compelled to face to the rear, to be taken care of.

The Officers and men of my command behaved with great coolness and personal courage. I cannot praise them too highly. Lieut. John Power, Adjutant of the Battalion, and Capt. R.E. Crofton, Acting Field Officer, rendered valuable and Effective service, and I present their names especially to your notice.

Out of fourteen Officers present, seven were wounded. Out of two hundred ninety five (295) men in ranks bearing arms in the morning, but Sixty five (65) reformed after this engagement.

I am Sir very respectfully
 Your obt. Svnt.

A.J. SLEMMER
 Major 16th Infantry

Source: National Archives, Record Group 391, entry 1548 (16th U.S. Infantry, letters sent, April 1862-March 1865)

Captain R.E.A. Crofton took charge of the battalion upon Slemmer's wounding, and Crofton's report is the one that made it into the ORs for the 16th Infantry. Slemmer's last act of the battle occurred on January 1, 1863. He was in a wagon train heading back to Nashville that was captured by marauding Confederate cavalry. Slemmer and the rest of the prisoners were immediately paroled. His parole status didn't really make much difference in the long run, since his days of field service were over due to the severity of his wound.



PACKAGING SPECIALIST, INC.

~~FAX~~ MEMO

TO: Mr. Jim Lewis - Park Ranger - Stones River

FROM: Al Gambone

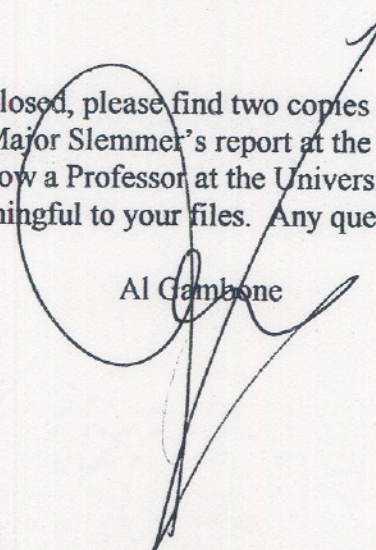
DATE: 18 Aug 2004 SUB: Slemmer

NUMBER OF PAGES: 3

Mr. Lewis:

As promised enclosed, please find two copies of the 04 Feb 2003 memo from Major Mark Johnson re: Major Slemmer's report at the Battle of Stones River. Please note that Mr. Johnson is now a Professor at the University of Albany. I hope/trust this document will prove meaningful to your files. Any questions, please let me know.

Al Gambone

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Al Gambone', is written over the typed name and extends upwards into the body of the letter.